

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9983

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF 3 DECEMBER

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN AD HOC MEETING OF 3 DECEMBER, BELGIAN ACTINGREP (WILLOT) BRIEFED GROUP ON OPTIONS FOR HIRING TRANSLATORS. GROUP ASKED HIM TO APPROACH AUSTRIANS TO SUGGEST AUSTRIANS MAKE CONTRACT FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES ON BASIS OF TWO WORKING DAYS PER WEEK. IN DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL CONTACTS, ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) REPORTED THAT IN NOV 30 CONVERSATION, THAT SOVIET REP SMIRNOVSKIY EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT WESTERN SINCERITY AND PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS OF TALKS. ENGLISH TEXT OF DRAFT PRESENTATION FOR DECEMBER 5 WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEWED AND APPROVED (SENT SEPTTEL); FRENCH TEXT FOR

DELIVERY TO BE CONSIDERED AT 4 DECEMBER AHG MEETING.
THE GERMAN REP (BEHREND) DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL ON THE
FRG FORCES REORGANIZATION PLAN, INCLUDING CONTINGENCY
TALKING POINTS (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. ADMINISTRATION. BELGIAN ACTING REP REPORTED ON
CURRENT STATUS AND COSTS OF TRANSLATION SERVICES ADMIN-
ISTERED BY AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND POSSIBLE CHOICES
FOR 1974. CURRENTLY, AUSTRIAN TRANSLATORS ARE PAID
1,500 AS PER WORK DAY, NON-AUSTRIAN TRANSLATORS
2,985 AS. FROM JANUARY 1, ALL WILL BE PAID \$91 PER WORK
DAY. AT TWO WORK DAYS PER WEEK, TOTAL MONTH CONFERENCE
EXPENSES NOW REIMBURSABLE TO THE AUSTRIANS RUN APPROXI-
MATELY 300,000 AS/MONTH DIVIDED AMONG THE 19 PARTICI-
PANTS; AFTER JANUARY 1, IT WOULD APPROXIMATE 500,000 AS/
MONTH. AUSTRIANS DESIRE THAT PARTICIPANTS DECIDE WHETHER
OR NOT TO HAVE A FIXED CONTRACT FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES.
CONTRACT WOULD GIVE THE CONFERENCE ASSURANCE OF TRANS-
LATIM SERVICES IF NOT NEEDED AND NO OTHER DEMANDS
FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WERE MADE.
THE EAST HAD MADE NO DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT.
AFTER DISCUSSION IN WHICH SEVERAL DELEGATES,
LED BY THE ITALIAN REP, OPPOSED ASSUMING SUCH GENERAL
LIABILITY, THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE BELGIAN ACTINGREP
SHOULD PROPOSE THAT THE AUSTRIANS THEMSELVES ENTER INTO
SUCH A CONTRACT HIRING THE INTERPRETORS FULL TIME FOR
AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND COMMIT ITSELF TO PROVIDE THEM FOR
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ONLY TWICE A WEEK.

3. BILATERALS. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) REPORTED ON A
LUNCH WITH GDR REP (OESER) NOTING LATTER CONTINUED TO BE
MORE UNYIELDING THAN THE OTHER EASTERN REPS AND
GAVE NO INDICATION OF AREAS OF FLEXIBILITY. THE
ITALIAN REP REPORTED ON HIS CONVERSATION AT A DINNER
NOVEMBER 30 AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WITH SOVIET REP
SMIRNOVSKIY. SMIRNOVSKIY WAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME,
MARKEDLY PESSIMISTIC IN HIS COMMENTS. HE ACCUSED THE
ALLIES OF NOT BEING SERIOUS AND WONDERED WHAT THERE WOULD
BE TO DO IN JANUARY. SMIRNOVSKIY ATTACKED THE FORM OF
U.S. REDUCTION IN THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, SAYING "ONLY
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COOK" WOULD BE REMOVED AND THAT IN A WAY WHICH WOULD
MAKE VERIFICATION IMPOSSIBLE. HE SAID ONLY UNIT REDUC-
TIONS WOULD BE VERIFICABLE. THE ITALIAN REP SUGGESTED,
JOKINGLY, THAT THE PACT SHOULD PROPERLY REDUCE TO
EQUALITY WITH NATO FIRST AND THEN BOTH SIDES COULD RE-
DUCE TOGETHER. SMIRNOVSKIY THEN ASKED WHETHER THE
WEST WOULD AGREE TO A COMMON CEILING IF THE WEST HAD
ONE, AND ONE-HALF MILLION MEN TO THE PACT'S ONE

MILLION. ITALIAN REP SAID WEST WOULD, IF FIGURES
COULD BE CORROBORATED.

4. ITALIAN REP REPORTED SMIRNOVSKIY INDICATED HE WAS
UPSET BY THE ROLE OF FRENCH FORCES IN THE WESTERN
PROPOSAL, SAYING THEY WERE APPARENTLY INCLUDED IN THE
PRE-REDUCTION FIGURES OF 777,000, BUT WOULD PROBABLY
ALSO BE COUNTED AS THE BULK OF REQUIRED REDUCTIONS TO
THE COMMON CEILING LEVEL OF 700,000. THE ITALIAN REP
DENIED THIS WAS THE CASE. SMIRNOVSKIY THEN ASKED WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN TO THE 700,000 LEVEL IF THE FRENCH UNI-
LATERALLY DECREASED THEIR FORCES. THE ITALIAN REP
THEN VOLUNTEERED TO SMIRNOVSKIY THAT EUROPEAN ALLIES
WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUB-CEILINGS ON THEIR FORCES LEVELS.
HE REPORTED THAT "THIS MADE SMIRNOVSKIY STILL MORE
UNHAPPY." COMMENT: WE INTEND TO POINT OUT TO
ITALIAN REP AT SUITABLE POINT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE NATURE
OF SUCH EXCURSIONS INTO DETAIL OF PHASE 2. END COMMENT.
SMIRNOVSKIY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FRG
REORGANIZATION PLAN, CALLING IT AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE
WARTIME MILITARY CAPABILITY, WHILE APPEARING TO REDUCE
FORCES. HE ALSO REPEATED STANDARD EASTERN POINTS
ABOUT AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES. HE ASKED WHY THE ALLIES
WOULD NOT ACCEPT IDEA OF ONE AGREEMENT WITH TWO PHASES
OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND SAID THE WESTERN INSISTENCE ON
SEPARATE AGREEMENTS INDICATED THE EUROPEAN ALLIES DID NOT
SERIOUSLY MEAN TO REDUCE. THE FRG REP (SEHREND) RE-
PORTING ON THE SAME DINNER, SAID HE HAD TALKED AT
LENGTH WITH SOVIET DELOFF GEN. TOKUN WHO SEEMED
MORE OPTIMISTIC. HE HAD ALSO SHOWN INTEREST IN
FRENCH FORCES, BUT DID NOT SEEM WORRIED BY THE
FRG REORGANIZATION PLAN. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV HAD SAID
HE STILL HOPED TO REMAIN IN MOSCOW AFTER THE
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CHRISTMAN BREAK AND GET OUT OF PRESENT ASSIGNMENT
BUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS WOULD PROBABLY RETURN.

5. DECEMBER 5 DRAFT PRESENTATION. THE PRESENTATION
FOR DECEMBER 5, AS PREPARED BY THE DRAFTING GROUP, WAS
DISTRIBUTED, AND EDITORIAL CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE
ENGLISH TEXT (SENT SEPTTEL). THE FRENCH TEXT FOR
DELIVERY WILL BE CONSIDERED DECEMBER 4.

4. FRG FORCE REORGANIZATION PLAN. THE FRG REP DISTRI-
BUTED MATERIALS ON THE FRG FORCE REORGANIZATION PLAN,
INCLUDING A LIST OF SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS (SEPTTEL)
FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO EASTERN INQUIRIES, STRESSING THE
AUTHORIZED FORCES LEVEL WOULD BE UNCHANGED AND THAT
IMPLEMENTATION WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL 1978.

HUMES

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